



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/ Welcome

The meeting of the First Things First – Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on **August 24, 2012** at 9:00 a.m. at the Hualapai Department of Cultural Resources, at 880 W Route 66, in Peach Springs, Arizona, 86434.

Vice Chair Hunter called the meeting to order at 9:28 a.m.

Members Present

Candida Hunter, Vice Chair; Joyce Holgate; Charlene Imus; Sandra Irwin; Helen J. W. Querta; Lucille Watahomigie; Reverend Pete Imus, Chair - telephonically

Members Absent

Madelena Cesspooch, Scott Dunsmore

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Holgate made a motion to approve the May 9, 2012 regular meeting and the May 14, 2012 special meeting minutes.

Member Irwin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Call to the Public

There were no responses to the Call to the Public. Vice Chair Hunter asked the guest to introduce herself. Rhonda Etsitty introduced herself as the TEACH Program Specialist.

At 9:31 a.m. Member C. Imus joined the meeting, and Chair Imus left the meeting.

Regional Partnership Council Member Updates and Announcements

Vice Chair Hunter spoke about the Tribal Consultation on August 1, 2012.

Vice Chair Hunter wondered whether the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council could work together with the Coconino Regional Partnership Council regarding the Havasupai Tribe. Member Holgate noted that Tribes in the Yuma area work with the Yuma Regional Partnership Council and asked if they could be used as a model. Vice Chair Hunter mentioned that partnering with other regions could be helpful. Member Watahomigie suggested contacting the regional partnership council that includes the Havasupai Tribe to see what services they have currently. Director Pascual explained that the Coconino Regional Partnership Council funds a home visitation program, and that she would bring more information to the Regional Partnership Council.

Member Holgate shared reflections from the Summit, and mentioned that the pre-summit on school readiness included very interesting brain science information. Member Holgate mentioned the topic of language and that it is good that the Hualapai language is being used around children in the region, and would like to collaborate with the school and community more for children in the birth to five age group.

2012 Regional Needs & Assets Final Draft

Violeta Dominguez and Michelle Walsh, members of the University of Arizona team that conducted the Needs and Assets report, were available on the phone. Member Watahomigie asked about child care information in the report. Director Pascual responded the report states there is a big need for child care and the new child care center will help address that need. Member Watahomigie asked whether discussions from the public hearings are included in the report. The University of Arizona team members stated that information was included, and it was summarized from Director Pascual's notes from those community focus sessions.

Member Irwin requested the recommendation section include behavioral health issues, due to exposure to alcohol, poverty and domestic violence. Dr. Walsh said page 53 of the report addressed the issue, and that they would edit the recommendations to include that information as well. Ms. Dominguez and Dr. Walsh also mentioned that information related to child care needs is included on page 68. Member Watahomigie agreed with what was included.

Director Pascual advised that the Needs and Assets Assessment may be approved with the noted edits and any grammatical corrections, adding that upon the Regional Council's approval, the Assessment will be presented for Tribal Council approval on September 8.

Member Irwin made a motion to approve the 2012 Needs and Assets report with stated corrections and additions. Member C. Imus seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

FY2013 Implementation Discussion

Expansion (Infant/Toddler)

Vice Chair Hunter said they are hoping to break ground on the new child care building by the end of this year. The Regional Council held discussion on the progress with the child care center and what funding sources would need to be utilized. Director Pascual will participate in committee meetings regarding the child care center and will keep the Regional Partnership Council apprised.

T.E.A.C.H. – Association for Supportive Child Care (Statewide Strategy)

Director Pascual said the TEACH scholarship strategy was providing the funding for two scholars. Member Holgate reported no staff members were currently enrolled. Member Holgate requested Rhonda Etsitty, who was in the audience, share any additional information. Ms. Etsitty shared that the two staff members who were receiving the scholarships had both left the region. The Regional Council held discussion around the contract and commitment the staff agree to when they receive the TEACH scholarship.

Intermission

Vice Chair Hunter adjourned the meeting for a short break at 10:25 a.m. Vice Chair Hunter called the meeting back to order at 10:34 a.m.

Vice Chair Hunter suggested the Regional Partnership Council look at the different versions of the TEACH contracts so they are aware of the commitments included. Director Pascual will include that in the next agenda.

Food Security – St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance

Director Pascual said the food security agreement is with St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, and that food distributions will continue to occur through the distribution partner, the Hualapai Human Services Department.

Home Visitation – Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program

Vice Chair Hunter asked Jennifer Pope, the Maternal Child Health Nurse, how the program is going now that the funding level is decreased and only allows for one full time employee. Ms. Pope responded that she is collaborating with the Hualapai Health, Education and Wellness Department's front desk staff and with WIC. Ms. Pope added that she will be working to update the developmental screening algorithm.

Native Language Enrichment – Recommendation for Grant Agreement

Director Pascual recommended that the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council consider another grant agreement to the Hualapai Department of Cultural Resources. This recommendation requires the following action:

- 1- Upon reconciliation of Fiscal Year 2012, consider allotting the unexpended funds from the Native Language Enrichment strategy in FY2012 to the same strategy in FY2013. Also approve a Scope of Work with the funding mechanism of a tribal grant agreement, and direct the Regional Director to develop a grant agreement with the Hualapai Tribe Department of Cultural Resources. (October)
- 2- Review the submitted grant agreement and scope of work. Provide a recommendation regarding a 7-month grant agreement to the Hualapai Tribal Council and the First Things First Board. (November)
- 3- The Board would then consider the grant agreement recommendation during the December Board meeting. (December)

Member Irwin asked if the Cultural Department could finish the project in that time. Director Pascual responded that through conversations with the staff, staff sounds confident they can. There was a consensus by the Regional Partnership Council to move forward with the recommendation.

Statewide Strategies – Parent Kits, Birth to Five Helpline, Evaluation

Director Pascual stated this was the Council's contribution to the statewide evaluation for all of our grants and programs.

FY2014 Funding Plan Development

Director Pascual reviewed the strategic priorities included in the region's three year strategic plan. She suggested Regional Council Members consider changes that may be needed for the next fiscal year.

Director Pascual reviewed the meeting calendar for the members to discuss revision, as well as to consider a funding plan workgroup that would develop a recommendation that would go forward to the Regional Council in October. The sub-committee will include Chair Imus, Vice Chair Hunter, and possibly another member to be designated later. The next meeting will be on October 10, 2012, at the Hualapai Health, Education and Wellness Department.

Member Irwin made a motion to cancel the September 12, 2012 meeting. Member Watahomigie seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Regional Director's Report

Director Pascual reminded members to get their travel claim forms for the Early Childhood Summit to Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant II, as soon as possible. Director Pascual informed the Regional Council that not all of the School Readiness Indicators have benchmarks yet, and that work is still continuing in the development of those benchmarks. Director Pascual mentioned the First One Hundred Institute happening the first week of September, which is a workshop about developing books in native languages. Member Irwin said Chair Imus might be interested, and Member Watahomigie said she was interested in going if Chair Imus was not.

Director Pascual reviewed the FY2012 Financial Expenditure Report, noting that the final FY2012 expenditures will be provided at the October meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on October 10, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. at the Hualapai Health, Education and Wellness Department.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Hunter adjourned the meeting at 11:02a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED BY:

Candida Hunter, Vice Chair